

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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DRAFTED BY EA/LC:LMRIVES:CB

APPROVED BY EA - MR. STEARNS

S/S - WHLUERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128436

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV. PINT, CB

SUBJECT:LONG BORET'S REQUEST TO NEANG CHIN HAN

1. AFTER CONSIDERABLE EFFORT WE GOT HOLD OF NEANG CHIN HAN
JUNE 14 AND TRANSMITTED LONG PORET'S OFFER, ADDING OUR OWN
URGINGS THAT HE ACCEPT IN ORDER TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY IN
THESE DIFFICULT DAYS. REGRETABLY, HE HAS DECIDED DECLINE
OFFER AFTER TAKING A DAY TO CONSIDER AND HAS ASKED THAT
FOLLOWING MESSAGE BE TRANSMITTED TO LONG BORET.

QUOTE: JE REMERCIE VOTRE EXCELLENCE DE SA HAUTE CONFIANCE.
POUR LE MOMENT MON DEVOIR M'OBLIGE A DECLINER
RESPECTUEUSEMENT LA CHARGE MINISTERIELLE QUE VOTRE
EXCELLENCE ENVISAGE DE ME CONFIER, ET CE, POUR DES RAISONS
QUE VOTRE EXCELLENCE CONNAIT DEJA LORS DE NOTRE ENTRETIEN A
PARIS EN AVRIL DERNIER. DEVANT LA GRAVITE DE LA
SITUATION NOTRE VOEU LE PLUS ARDENT ET LE PLUS LEGITIME
RESTE AVANT TOUT L'UNION NATIONALE ET LA PAIX QUI PRIMENT
TOUTE AUTRE CONSIDERATION- PUISSE VOTRE EXCELLENCE
REUSSIR DANS SA HAUTE ET TRES DIFFICILE MISSION. JE
DEMEURERAI FIDELE A NOS IDEAUX COMMUNS POUR NOTRE PAYS
QUI A DEJA TROP SOUFFERT. JE PRIE VOTRE EXCELLENCE
D'AGREER MES SENTIMENTS RESPECTUEUX ET VOUS REASSURE
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DE MA LOYALE AMITIE. (SIGNED) NEANG CHIN HAN. END QUOTE

2. FYI. DURING MEETING WITH COUNTRY DIRECTOR ON JUNE 14 NEANG CHIN HAN REFERRED TO CONVERSATION WITH PRIMIN IN PARIS AT TIME OF POMPIDOU FUNERAL. STATED THAT LONG BORET HAD INITIALLY OFFERED HIM SAME JOB THEN AND THAT HE HAD REFUSED FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS. NEANG DECLARED HAD TOLD PRIMIN THAT HE FELT POLITICAL SITUATION WOULD NEVER IMPROVE UNTIL (A) LON NOL KEPT OUT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ALSO ACTED AS CHIEF OF STATE AND NOT PRIME MINISTER, (B) ARMY PLACED UNDER CIVILAIN CONTROL AND WORKED FOR THE PEOPLE RATHER THAN AS AN INDEPENDENT FORCE VIRTUALLY ABOVE THE LAW AND (C) "MEN OF 18 MARCH", INCLUDING IN TAM AND CHENG HENG, RETURNED TO PHNOM PENH AND FORMED SOLID FRONT WITH OTHERS IN GKR IN ORDER BE ABLE NEGOTIATE WITH OTHER SIDE. (HE DID NOT OFFER ANY IDEAS ON HOW THE FOREGOING WERE TO BE ACCOMPLISHED). SISCO

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